



## Facilitating Student Access to Pediatric Behavioral Health Urgent Care

### **BIDDER QUESTIONS**

Updated as of August 5, 2022

- 1. Is there a preference for existing partnerships between Eligible Applicants and School Partners? Or is it OK to form a new partnership via this grant program?**

Eligible Applicants may form new partnerships for the purposes of this grant. There is no preference for existing partnerships, although reviewers may assign a higher score where an existing partnership has a demonstrated history of successful collaboration.

- 2. Is there a required funding distribution or split between the partners?**

There is no required funding distribution or split between the Eligible Applicant and School Partner.

- 3. What is meant by “Other public education entity?” Can you describe and provide an example?**

“Other public education entity” was meant to cover a range of possible School Partners, such as multiple schools that may have formed a regional partnership for specific purposes.

- 4. Can we partner with more than one school?**

Yes, eligible applicants may partner with more than one school; however, the schools must be located in the same geographic area and serve a similar population of students in terms of demographics, diversity, and needs.

- 5. Is it acceptable to work with more than one school partner and, if so, does that school partner need to be in the same geographic area of the Commonwealth serving a similar population in terms of needs and demographics?**

Applicants may work with more than one school partner. However, it is envisioned that the school partners would be physically close to the applicant’s location, and thereby, the demographics and needs of the student populations would be similar. If a second school partner is located in a different geographic area with different demographic data and needs, the applicant would need to submit a second application.

- 6. Is there a required outline for the letter of intent?**

There is no set format for the letter of intent. A simple letter indicating that you intend to submit a grant application is sufficient.

**7. Is the letter of intent binding?**

The letter of intent should reflect an Eligible Applicant's intent to apply for a grant as of July 29, 2022, but it is not legally binding.

**8. *What are you envisioning in terms of required paperwork?***

There will be standardized formats for reporting on data and outcomes that have yet to be developed. We are committed to developing reporting requirements and formats that are helpful to assessing the impact of the grant program while minimizing the reporting burden on grantees.

**9. *Will MAMH consider extending the timeline for application submission due to difficulties in working with schools on this grant application in the summer?***

MAMH has considered school schedules in developing its RFR timetable. Given the constraints of needing our schedule to coincide with that of the Roadmap, we do not have flexibility on the dates.

**10. *Is there a deadline for asking questions about this RFR?***

Although we urge bidders to submit their questions as soon as possible, we will accept questions until August 18, 2022. Questions and answers will be posted on the MAMH website and we urge bidders to check for updates regularly.

**11. *Is there a specific staffing pattern that must be adhered to for this initiative?***

No specific staffing pattern is required.

**12. *Is there guidance or requirements on a minimum number of students served?***

There is no minimum number of students required to be served under this grant. However, the number of students served, diversity of the community and student population, and unmet needs of the community and school partner will be considered in awarding contracts. The goal of the grant program is to improve services in diverse communities and schools with high levels of unmet need.

**13. *What is the contact threshold for including students in the tracking protocol?***

This question is assumed to be asking whether there is a minimum number of students required to be served by this grant. The answer is no, there is not a minimum number, although reviewers may assign a higher score to proposals that will be serving higher numbers of students in diverse, high-need areas.,

**14. *Can the availability of an Emergency Department of a hospital be leveraged to meet the RFR requirements for some of the 24/7 services described in the RFR?***

A key goal of this RFR is to provide alternatives to hospital Emergency Departments for students by intervening to provide urgent care. Applicants are encouraged to provide services outside Emergency Departments whenever it is safe and appropriate to do so.

**15. What is the mechanism and schedule for funds disbursement under this grant?**

MAMH intends to issue quarterly payments to grantees in an amount equal to one-fourth of their annual grant award. Funds will be transferred to the grantee in the form of check or an EFT. Payments will be contingent upon meeting the participation and reporting requirements of the grant.

**16. What is the data collection, reporting, and evaluation system?**

The individual components of data collection, reporting, and evaluation are described in the RFR document. MAMH and its independent evaluation consultant will work closely with grantees in the first months of the initiative to design and implement data collection, reporting, and evaluation protocols.

**17. Will non-MassHealth members participate in services?**

Yes, it is anticipated that grant applications will propose to serve all students enrolled with the school partner.

**18. Will MAMH provide assistance or resources related to gathering ED or inpatient hospitalizations of enrolled students?**

MAMH may provide technical assistance to help Grantees develop capacity to participate in data reporting and evaluation under the grant, but it is the responsibility of the Grantee to collect and report required data.

**19. How will MAMH manage the bifurcation of insurance products during service delivery?**

MAMH does not expect to have a role in discussions or decision-making about insurance case mix or benefit coordination. Grants provided under this initiative may be used in conjunction with other funding sources. Grantees are encouraged to explore other funding sources, including public and private-sector reimbursement, to maximize the impact of the grant and encourage sustainability. It is the Grantee's responsibility to coordinate all funding sources supporting their grant program.

**20. Will MAMH be a payor of last resort?**

MAMH is not an insurer or payor of direct services.

**21. Is there a budget template we should use?**

MAMH has developed a budget template and sample budget to help grant applicants describe their proposed project budget. Please visit <https://www.mamh.org/about/opportunities> for the template, sample, and budget instructions.

**22. Is there a certain percentage of the total program budget that should come from funding sources outside of MAMH?**

There is no requirement or expectation regarding a specific percentage of the total program budget that should come from non-grant resources. However, reviewers may consider the applicant's ability to leverage additional resources to maximize the impact of the grant.